

# Kyodan

## News Letter

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No. 112

March 20, 1977

### KYODAN APPOINTS NEW MISSIONARIES

The Committee for Ecumenical Ministries, newly appointed by the 19th General Assembly, convened for the first time on Feb. 24 at the Christian Center and elected Rev. IWAMURA Shinji and Rev. TAKAHASHI Taiji, both pastors of prominent churches in Tokyo, as Chairperson and Secretary, respectively. Other members include Dr. TAKAMI Toshihiro, President of Asian Rural Institute, Ms. OKUDA Michiko, a leader in the National Federation of Kyodan Women and member of the WCC Central Committee, and three pastors serving outside Tokyo, Rev. ASHINA Naomichi, Chairperson of TOHOKU District, Rev. FUJIMOTO Haruyoshi of Tokai District and Rev. KOYANAGI Nobuaki of Osaka District.

Major decisions were made in response to invitations from churches in Bolivia, Canada and the United States for missionaries from Japan. In response to a request from the Saskatchewan Conference of the United Church of Canada, Rev. KAMURO Junichi, 37, was appointed to serve for a three year term to begin in Sept. 1977. Kamuro, a native of Hokkaido, graduate of Tsurukawa Rural Institute and pastor of Honda Memorial Church in Tokyo, has also served on the staff of the Kyodan and currently is responsible for the Committee dealing with the Yasukuni Shrine problem.

Kamuro will be serving as Missionary-in-Residence of the Saskatchewan Conference by sharing his understanding and experience of

mission from his background as an Asian Christian. He is expected to provide "a kind of window through which Canadian Christians can see how their life style, habits, and aspirations affect other parts of the world." His experience as a student in the Philippines, will help him to bring an Asian perspective to Canada as he represents the Kyodan in mission there. Mrs. KAMURO, a graduate of International Christian University, is the mother of three children, the oldest ready for first grade in April.

The Committee has approved underwriting a portion of the travel expenses of the Kamuros from its 1977 budget and it is hoped that Honda Memorial Church will also provide a portion of their support. However, the major portion will be borne by the Saskatchewan Conference.

Rev. ISHIMARU Yasuki, 37, and his fiancée, Ms. SHIMUZU Keiko, were appointed to serve in the mission of the Iglesia Evangelica Metodista en Bolivia. They will leave for Bolivia just as soon as possible after their marriage on April 17, 1977. Ishimaru will succeed Rev. YAMAZATO Katsuichi who was unable to return to Bolivia after five years of service in its Eastern District.

Rev. Ishimaru is a graduate of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary. He has served as assistant pastor of the Kichijoji Church and taught in the Jr. and Sr. High Schools of Toyo Eiwa Joshi Gakuin. Recently, he has been the part-time pastor of the Fuchu Nishi Mission in western Tokyo. The Ishimarus, upon their arrival in Bolivia, will undertake a period of language study and continue the work begun by missionaries from Japan in the Okinawa Colony in Eastern Bolivia.

A request for a missionary to serve in a program of special ministries to Japanese in metropolitan New York has been advertised in Kyodan publications, but no candidates have yet volunteered. The committee will continue to attempt to recruit a person for this important ministry to Japanese nationals living in the New York Area.

Dr. Takami gave first hand reports of recent visits with Kyodan missionaries: Mr. MAKINO Kazuho in India, and Rev. MOCHIZUKI Kenichiro, in Thailand. Mr. & Mrs. Makino's three year term was extended six months and a budget increase was approved to cover the extension. Further consideration will be given to the request from the Allahabad Rural Institute in India for the continued services of the Makino family there.

### Relations with Overseas Churches

In the January issue I discussed developments in Kyodan relations with overseas churches trying to say that we are beginning to think of these relations more seriously and responsibly. My remark, in the second paragraph, about "official ties," has raised questions, and needs to be corrected. I was referring to the special exchange of documents between the Kyodan, three Korean Churches and one church in Taiwan. I did not mean to imply that our sisterchurch relationships in the World Council of Churches and the Christian Conference of Asia are unofficial or informal. Of course, these are also "formal" and "official" relations and need to be recognized as such. I am sorry for this unfortunate use of the word "official."

TODA Isuke



THE NEW COMMISSION ON THE MINISTRY

The first meeting of the Commission on the Ministry, after its reconstitution by the Executive Committee following the 19th General Assembly, was held in the Japan Christian Center Feb. 3-4. Facing a long agenda, the commission was able to organize rather quickly considering the fact that, like any new combination of Kyodan members these days, it was necessary to review the last eight dissension years so as to get a group "fix" on the Expo 70 controversy and subsequent developments before officers could be elected. Convenor OHSHTO Seinosuke, pastor of Itabashi Ohyama Church, Tokyo, chaired this discussion and presided for the re-election of Rev. SUGAWARA Kenichi as Commission Chairperson and the election of Rev. SHIMIZU Akira as Secretary. Rev. Sugawara is pastor of Aichi and Kagamihara Churches in Nagoya; Rev. Shimizu is pastor of Rakuyo Church in Kyoto.

Of the nine commission members only Rev. Ohshio and Rev. Sugawara are carried over from the 18th General Assembly term. Rev. TAJIMA Masahito has had previous experience on this commission, serving as its secretary in 1973-75. The only woman member is Rev. UOZUMI Setsu, pastor of Himeji Wako Church in Hyogo District. Rev. OHMIYA Hiroshi of Asagaya Church, Tokyo, did not attend the meeting, having sent in a resignation letter; but it was decided to make strenuous efforts to persuade him to change his mind. Unfortunately he could not be reached during the meeting.

After choosing its officers the commission further organized itself into subgroups to take special responsibility for seminary relations, pastoral moves, continuing education, and disciplinary matters. Then Rev. TSUJI Nobumichi, pastor of Kusabuka Church in Shizuoka, was elected to represent the commission as a Pension Board trustee; Rev. Shimizu was chosen to serve on the Joint Pastoral Studies Seminar Committee, and Chairman Sugawara was nominated as one of the Kyodan representatives on the Council of Cooperation.

Turning to its business, the commission first took up questions related to theological education. It was decided that this year's theological education support funds, from JNAC and the Seminary Day offering, would be distributed more or less along traditional lines; but that the seminaries would be notified that next year's distribution will be affected by a thorough re-examination of the commission's own goals and policies with regard to supporting the training of the Kyodan's future ministers.

Much more attention will need to be given to questions referred from the 19th General Assembly or inherited from the previous commission: Questions such as what it means for a seminary to be "Kyodan established" or "Kyodan authorized," for example. Before taking up these questions each seminary will be visited by teams of two or three commission members to become familiar with their present situations. The first of these visitations will be to Aoyama Gakuin's Christian Studies Department on Mar. 23. That visit may help the commission determine its response to the dissolution of the department by the university administration.

Also discussed was the commission's responsibility for the continuing education of Kyodan clergy. There are questions and proposals regarding pastors' seminars from Hyogo, Kanagawa and Osaka Districts. It was agreed to initiate a survey of continuing education needs and resources, starting in Shikoku District with help from Rev. MUKAI Tsuneo, commission member and pastor of Tobu Church, Shikoku.

The overall impression from the two-day meeting is that this commission intends to take very seriously its responsibilities toward Kyodan pastors throughout their entire careers, from their preparation for ministry to their retirement years. The next meeting will be July 19-20 immediately following the second meeting of the Kyodan Executive Committee.

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CORRECTION: KNL apologizes for a serious misprint in KAMURO Junichi's article on Christianity and the Emperor System in Feb. issue. In the middle of the last paragraph of that article, page 2, please note that the official pilgrimage to Yasukuni Shrine was in 1975, not 1955.



Missionary Presence in the Kyodan

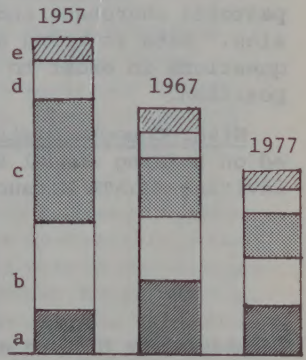
Questions are being raised in various quarters and from various points of view regarding the presence of missionaries from abroad within the life of the United Church of Christ in Japan. Why, when churches in other countries are saying "Missionary go home!" or "Missionary come home!," does the Kyodan hope for even more missionaries? What are missionaries in Japan doing anyway?

Such questions led the KNL editorial staff to make its own unofficial survey to try to see what is happening numerically and functionally over the twenty year period from 1957 (the peak of postwar missionary presence) to the present. The results are to be seen in the accompanying charts.

We hasten to point out that the categories chosen are arbitrary and inexact and that no missionary can be squeezed into any one category. Some church missionaries also teach English and most school missionaries are deeply involved in the church. The analysis is only useful in a broad, general sense - in terms of totals rather than individuals. We wish we had information about English Bible classes, an important functional aspect of the traditional missionary presence in Japan. Such data is not available and even if it were, numbers hardly begin to tell the real story. Even so some important changes can be seen - most notably the recent increase in non-board supported missionaries.

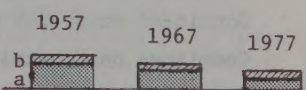
CHURCH-RELATED KYODAN MISSIONARIES

Type	Base	a. Local Church	b. Bunku Chiku	c. Kyoku	d. Kyodan	e. Other	Total
Pioneer Evangelism	1957	10	8	6	4		28
	1967	15	3	3			21
	1977	12	2	2			16
General Evangelism	1957	13	35	54			102
	1967	22	24	15			51
	1977	13 (1)	19	10		2 (2)	44 (3)
Specialized Support Ministry	1957	1	5	12	16	12	46
	1967	2	10	15	13	16	56
	1977		6	14	14	8 (1)	42 (1)
Totals	1957	24	48	72	20	12	176
	1967	39	37	33	13	16	138
	1977	25 (1)	27	26	14	10 (3)	102 (4)



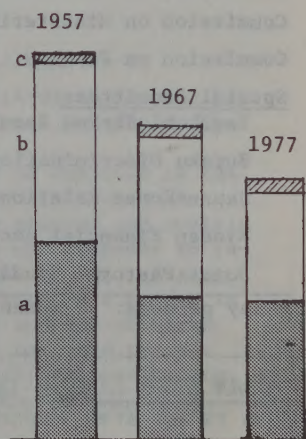
SOCIAL WORK-RELATED KYODAN MISSIONARIES

	a. Local Institution	b. Other	Total
1957	14	6 (1)	20 (1)
1967	9	4 (1)	13 (1)
1977	5	5 (1)	10 (1)



SCHOOL-RELATED KYODAN MISSIONARIES

Type	Base	a. Secondary	b. College-University	c. Other	Total
English Language	1957	103	33	5	141
	1967	75	21	7	103
	1977	78 (41)	20 (3)	5 (1)	103 (45)
Eng.-Amer. Literature	1957		21		21
	1967		18		18
	1977		7		7
Theological Education	1957		14		14
	1967		20		20
	1977		11		11
Other Specialty	1957	6	35 (1)	1	42 (1)
	1967	7	30 (1)	2	39 (1)
	1977	3	23 (2)	3 (1)	29 (3)
Totals	1957	109	103 (1)	6	218 (1)
	1967	82	89 (1)	9	180 (1)
	1977	81 (41)	61 (5)	8 (2)	150 (48)



( ) non-board support, included in count at left.



West Japan Research Conference on Mission Held in Kyushu

The Annual Joint Mission Research Conference comprised of representatives from four of the Kyodan's western districts was held on Feb. 22-23 near Fukuoka City in Kyushu. Participants came from the Kyushu (3), Shikoku (1), Higashi-Chugoku (1) and Nishi-Chugoku (4) districts. Kyodan Executive Secretary Rev. KASHIWAI Hajime represented the Kyodan Research Institute on the Mission of the Church.

Reports were given from each of the four districts in order to further mutual understanding and cooperation on issues and concerns related to the mission of the church.

Shikoku District feels the need for the district to take more initiative in the training and appointing of ministers instead of leaving the call of a pastor entirely in the hands of local churches. Shikoku District is now beginning a study of the former denominational systems in order to move toward this goal.

Higashi-Chugoku District reported on concern about loss of evangelistic fervor, unpastored churches, and struggles with heresies. Data is being assembled on these questions in order to clarify the District's position.

Nishi-Chugoku District delegates reported on holding annual seminars for pastors, inviting MIYATA Mitsuo, Tohoku University

professor, to speak on "Politics and Religion" in 1976, SATAKE Akira, Aoyama Gakuin professor, on "Problems Related to Freedom in Paul" in 1975 and in 1974 ARAI Sasagu on "Paul in History." There was wide concern also about the Emperor system, social welfare needs, and problems of human rights.

In Kyushu District one of the main concerns is the issue of Holy Communion, widely discussed in the district since 1972. Much study has been based on a questionnaire sent to their churches in 1974 which reveals a wide variety in understanding and practice.

Research and discussion in Kyushu feature the following specific issues:

- 1) The meaning of Holy Communion,
- 2) The double classification of Kyodan ministers (ordained and licensed) in relation to the problem of authority to administer the sacrament of Holy Communion.
- 3) Offering the sacrament to those who are not yet baptized.

Kyushu District proposed a bill at the last Kyodan General Assembly calling for elimination of a bilevel ministry. However, on offering Communion to those who are not baptized there still seems to be overwhelming opposition in the district.

This conference has been held jointly by the four districts for over ten years. Next year it will be Shikoku's turn.

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Commissions and Committees On Parade

	<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Commission on Mission of Church	AKASAKA Eiichi <i>Kyoto</i>	MOMI Kanji <i>Tokyo</i>
Committee on Evangelism	FUJITA Tasuku <i>Nishi-Chugoku</i>	OPPATA Kazuo <i>Kanagawa</i>
Committee on Education	IMAHASHI Akira <i>Kanagawa</i>	TSUKADA Takashi <i>Tokyo</i>
Committee on Social Concerns	TOKUNAGA Goro <i>Tokyo</i>	WATANABE Hidetoshi <i>Kanagawa</i>
Committee on Ecumenical Ministries	IWAMURA Shinji <i>Tokyo</i>	TAKAHASHI Taiji <i>Tokyo</i>
Commission on Ministry	SUGAWARA Kenichi <i>Chubu</i>	SHIMUZU Akira <i>Kyoto</i>
Commission on Faith and Order	- not yet elected -	
Commission on Ministerial Qualifications	KAWATANI Takeo <i>Hokkai</i>	YODA Koichi <i>Kanagawa</i>
Commission on Finance	NISHIHARA Kiichiro* <i>Hyogo</i>	SAEKI Yukio <i>Tokyo</i>
<u>Special Committees</u>		
Yasukuni Shrine Issue	- not yet elected -	
Buraku Discrimination	- not yet elected -	
Japan-Korea Relations	OHSIO Seinosuke <i>Tokyo</i>	YAMAYA Shinko*° <i>Tokyo</i>
Kyodan Financial Reconstruction	ONO Ichiro <i>Kyoto</i>	KIDA Yoichi* <i>Tokyo</i>
Joint Pastoral Studies Seminar	- not yet elected -	

\* lay persons: ° women

KYODAN NEWS LETTER is published 10 times a year, September through June. One-year subscription rates are: *Japan*, ¥1,200; *Overseas*, ¥1,500/\$5.00/13 D.M. When postage is not required prices are: one year, ¥700, single copy, ¥70. Send to "Kyodan News Letter," Japan Christian Center Room #31, 3-18 Nishi-Waseda 2-chome, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160, Japan.